



Case Study: >>Jerry W.

Man Maintains Independent Living



Jerry W. is a 58 year old who has been diagnosed with diabetes, asthma, arthritis, severe allergies and coronary problems. He is cognitively impaired and has limited mobility. Jerry receives weekly home nursing visits and is telemonitored for pulse, blood pressure and other vital signs. He receives intensive case management and benefits from a particularly involved primary care physician.

Jerry has very strong family support from his sister and brother-in-law, who live nearby. They both work during the day, but check on Jerry every evening and on weekends.

Despite the services Jerry receives and the support from his family, he continued to have health crises due to poor adherence to his self-care regimen of testing his blood sugar and blood pressure, as well as properly taking his medications. His ability to remain in his home was in jeopardy. During the thirty days prior to enrollment in the wireless reminder program, Jerry had seven trips to the emergency department and one inpatient hospital stay.

Despite numerous difficulties in establishing a proper regimen and overcoming cognitive barriers to the use of the reminder device, Jerry eventually was able to master the use of the device and to properly respond to its cues.

He has avoided returns to the hospital and emergency room since adding the wireless reminder program, the last piece in the puzzle that included case management, telemonitoring, home nurse visits, actively involved primary care physician and strong family support.

Jerry's independent living has been extended.